(b) the year-wise and State-wise details of the gold imported during the last three years, till date;

(c) the main reasons for fluctuation in prices of gold during the recent past; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to control the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) There is no firm statistics on estimated demand and availability of gold in the country. However, rough estimates place gold demand in the country at 700-800 tonnes per annum:

(b) State-wise data on import of gold is not maintained. Import of gold during the period 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (Upto December 2006) are as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

SI.No.	Year	Import Value
1.	2003-04	2994614.78
2.	2004-05	4734758.00
3.	2005-06	4795048.97
4.	2006-07 (Upto December, 2006)	4831326.69

(c) and (d) Internationally, various factors such as demand and supply, investor interest, interest rates, movement in the exchange rate of US Dollar *vis-a-vis* other international currencies, etc. affect the gold price. The same holds good in India too. The movement in domestic price of gold in India is in tandem with similar movement in international markets.

Trade by export-oriented industrial units

†4444. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of trade transcted by the export-oriented industrial

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

units in the total import-export trade of the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the foreign exchange earned by the same during the same period;

(c) whether several economic concessions are being provided to the said units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Total foreign exchange earned by the Export Oriented Units (EOUs) during the years 2004-05,2005-06 and 2006-07 (April-December) were to the extent of approximately US $ 8700 million, US $ 11200 million and US $ 8100 million (provisional) respectively. The share of EOUs in the total exports of the country was about 10.45%, 10.84% and 9.07% during the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (April-December) respectively.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Units under export oriented scheme are eligible for fiscal concessions which include duty free import/domestic procurement and reimbursement of Central Sales Tax (CST) on capital goods, raw materials, consumables for their production activities and corporate tax exemption on export income for a period of 10 years.

ASIDE Scheme

4445. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme;

(b) whether funds under ASIDE are allocated on the basis of growth of export, or export performance; and

(c) the details of proposals sent by Andhra Pradesh Government for allocation of funds under the Scheme during the last year and the current year, and the amount allocated/released by the Ministry on these proposals, industry/sector-wise?